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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 IO-12 OMB-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 INT-08 RSR-01

AID-20 /155 W
---------- 032686
R 271425 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1282
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3485

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, LE, IZ, KU
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON IRAQI PROBLEMS WITH KUWAIT AND LEBANON

1. INDEPENDENT AN NAHART MAR 27) BAGHDAD CORRESPONDENT INTER-
VIEWED FORMIN BAQI WHO STATED, INTER ALIA, THAT NO REAL CRISIS
EXISTS WITH KUWAIT, ENTIRE PROBLEM DUE TO ABSENCE BORDER
DEMARCATION. HE NOTED GOI DESIRE FOR SHORELINE ON GULF
WHEN DISPUTE SETTLED. FORMIN DECLARED GOI BOYCOTT LEBANESE
PRODUCTS DUE TO NUMEROUS GOL ACTIVITIES HARMFUL TO GOI,
ESPECIALLY PRIMIN SALAM' S STATEMENTS. SAID DETENTE DEPENDENT
UPON GOL " RECONSIDERATION" OF NEGATIVE VIEW RE ECONOMIC
RELATIONS WITH IRAQ, TREATMENT OF IRAQIS IN LEBANON, AND
POTENTIAL POSITION TOWARDS GOI. HE WARNED THAT STILL STRONGER
MEASURES WOULD FOLLOW IF GOL PERSISTS IN CURRENT POLICIES.

2. AN NAHAR ALSO CARRIED REPORTED EXCERPTS OF CONVERSATION
BETWEEN LEBANESE DEPUTY KAMAL JUMBLATT AND IRAQI VICE
PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN IN WHIR SADDAM ASSERTED THAT
GOL' S INTRANSIGENT STAND ON NOT TAKING OVER IPC PIPELINE COST
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GOI DOLS 156 MILLION, SYRIA DOLS 30 MILLION, AND GOL DOES 16 MILLION. SADDAM EXPRESSED SURPRISE OVER MISINFORMATION AND SUSPIVGION OF GOI MOTIVES IN KUWAIT BORDER INCIDENT, WHICH HE SAID WILL BE SOLVED WITHOUT OUTSIDE HE (PALME) DID NOT INTEND TO SPEAK. HOWEVER, WHEN MODERATE PARTY LEADER BOHMAN UNLEASHED HIS ATTACK, PALME SAID HE COULD NOT SIT BY AND ALLOW WICKMAN TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF REPLYING TO ATTACKS WHICH WERE AIMED AT HIM (PALME) PERSONALLY.

4. WACHTMEISTER SAID HE PERSONALLY REGRETTED THAT THE FONOFF HAD NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO PRESENT ITS FOREIGN POLICY PROGRAM AND RESPOND IN THE DEBATE AS PLANNED. AT THE SAME TIME, HE FELT THAT ANYONE FAMILIAR WITH THE POLITICAL FACTS OF LIFE, COULD UNDERSTAND WHY PALME HAD TO DEFEND HIMSELF, EVEN IF THEY DIDN' T APPROVE OF HIS POSITION OR HIS STATEMENTS.

5. WACHTMEISTER SAID THAT THE OPPOSITION WAS CURRENTLY BELIEVED TO BE LEADING THE GOVT BY 5-6 PERCENT AT THE OPINION POLLS, BUT THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' DISCIPLINED APPROACH TO GETTING ALL OF THEIR VOTERS TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY WOULD PROABLY RESULT IN A VERY CLOSE ELECTION.

6. COMMENT: WACHTEMEISTER AND CHARGE WERE CLOSE PERSONAL FRIENDS WHEN THEY SERVED IN MOSCOW IN THE MID-50 S AND HAVE KEPT IN TOUCH THROUGH THE YEARS. CHARGE ASKED IF PALME HAD INDICATED ANY REGRET OR REMORSE CONCERNING HIS CONDUCT IN THE FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE. WACHTMEISTER SAID THAT PALME HONESTLY BELIEVES HIS POSITION, IF NOT HIS RHETORIC, ON VIETNAM WAS CORRECT AND WAS SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC OPINION IN SWEDEN. WACHTMEISTER SAID THAT HE REGRETTED THAT THE OPPOSITION LEADERS FELT THEY HAD TO QTE PROVOKE PALME UNQTE RE U. S.- SWEDISH RELATIONS SINCE PALME MUST DEFEND HIS POSITION IF HE IS TO MAINTAIN HIS CREDIBILITY. HE THOUGHT SUCH ATTACKS WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN. WACHTMEISTER BELIEVES THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF SWEDES WOULD WELCOME THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U. S. AND SWEDEN, BUT FEW BELIEVE THIS WILL BE POSSIBLE BEFORE THE ELECTIONS IN SEPTEMBER. WACHTMEISTER SAID HE TELEPHONED
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SWEDISH CHARGE IN WASHINGTON REQUESTING THE LATTER TO EXPLAIN TO THE DEPARTMENT, PALME' S STATEMENT IN THE FULL CONTEXT OF THE DEBATE. ACCOUNT OF FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE

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CORRESPONDS GENERALLY WITH THAT REPORTED THOROUGHLY IN REFTELS. EMBASSY STOCKHOLM MAY WISH COMMENT, HOWEVER, ON VALIDITY OF WACHTMEISTER' S VIEWS AS SEEN FROM THERE.
WHITE

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